

# REPORT

## NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

ON

FOR THE

Week ending the 17th March 1906.

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## II—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 6th March draws the attention of Government to the prevalence of the practice of gambling at the *hát* at Sumbhuganj, near Mymensingh town. On the 11th February last, the correspondent was personally a witness of gambling going on at 7 or 8 shops at this *hát*.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Mar. 6th, 1906.

2. The *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 7th March complains that the police constables at Jessore town are in the habit of extorting fish at insufficient prices from the local vendors of the article, and the trade is in consequence being diverted to other places, where it is not subjected to any such *zulum*.

A complaint against the Jessore police.

JASOHAR,  
Mar. 7th, 1906.

3. A correspondent of the *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 7th March writes that the Presidents of the Panchayat unions appointed under the new system require in many cases to be kept a sharp look on by the Magistrate concerned, since most frequently they are not well-educated men and not unoften they are men who do not even know their mother-tongue well. Such men cannot be expected to master the principles of the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code, and cases have arisen therefore where, owing to their inability to distinguish between cognizable and non-cognizable offences, they have put the regular police to a great deal of unnecessary work. Cases have also occurred where these Presidents, owing to the same ignorance of the law, have proceeded to dismiss and also to appoint *chaukidars* and *daffadars*.

The Presidents of the Panchayats under the new system.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Mar. 7th, 1906.

4. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 7th March publishes the following account of what it describes as a case of inhuman oppression on its Musalman brethren of Midnapore by the local police on *Moharram* day, the 7th idem, as furnished by a specially deputed correspondent :—

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Mar. 7th, 1906.

On receipt of the intelligence of a riot having occurred at the maidan in front of the College, I proceeded to the spot to find the whole field enclosed by armed policemen, who were falling upon anybody and everybody, and after giving them kicks with booted legs, blows, slaps, and thrusts with *lathis*, advancing with them in the direction of the *kotwali* thana.

On arriving at this thana, I heard heart-rending wails coming out of the lock-up. I saw five or six Musalmans with arms pinioned at their backs being brought up by a number of constables and thrust into the lock-up, all the while receiving blows from the latter. On inquiry I learned that these men had been caught in their homes, which had been entered into for the purpose, by order of the District Superintendent of Police.

I also saw a muscular Musalman standing with a phial of medicine in his hand on the verandah of the Municipal office suddenly seized by a number of constables who began to drag him towards the thana. A Baboo of the Municipal office pointed out to the constables that the man they were taking away was a *chuprassy* of the District Judge, but they persisted nevertheless in belabouring and dragging the man to the thana and putting him in the lock-up.

As to how the affray arose it appears that the *akhra* of the Pathan *Mahalla* was coming out of the maidan, when the police hurried up the *akhra* of Aliganj proceeding along the same way, by means of thrusts and blows.

The party of the Pathan *Mahalla* in front was also told by the police to hurry up. They were too busy with their play to listen to this order of the police who thereupon attempted to enforce their orders by laying about with *lathies*. This provoked resistance from the processionists: the two *akhras* now joined hands, and the *mélée* became quite brisk. Armed policemen from the thana were sent down to the spot, but before they could arrive the men of the two *akhras* who had actually been engaged in the fight had taken to flight. The police then proceeded to arrest anybody and everybody whom they could lay hands on, and to belabour them mercilessly like so many



dogs and jackals. One man named Methoo is authentically reported to have been brought to death's door from the blows he received.

It is rumoured that the police this year purposely provoked a breach of the peace, because their request that security bonds should be taken from each *akhra* according to the custom of previous years was this year not acceded to by the District Magistrate.

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Mar. 7th, 1906.

*Muharram riots at Midnapore.*

5. The same paper publishes a poem about the incidents alluded to in the foregoing paragraph.

SANDHYA,  
Mar. 14th, 1906.

6. With reference to the *Muharram* riots at Midnapore, the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 14th March writes that about thirty-four persons, without discrimination between the guilty and the innocent, were put in the lock-up. They include in their number mere spectators, some of whom had come from the remote villages, as also a man who is notorious all over the town as insane.

As an illustration of the indiscriminate manner in which the police made arrests, it is stated that a Hindu neighbour got caught because he had pointed out to some policemen who were attempting to enter a Musalman's house that there were females in the house. The paper then goes on to complain of the manner in which the police treated those who were in their custody. Some were allowed to begin partaking of the meal which had been brought by the forethought of their friends, but not to finish eating; others again were refused permission to eat at all because the meals for them were a little late in being brought.

Then again, when at night, some of the imprisoned men sore pressed by hunger and thirst cried out for water and some slight refreshments, the police, first distributed amongst them a few pice worth of fried rice (*muri*), and when they finished eating this mocked them by placing a pail of water in their presence, but refusing to allow them to drink out of it, at the same time sneeringly reminding them of the death agonies from thirst of Imam Hosain.

The paper concludes by pointing out that the official refusal this year to permit some of the *akhras* to proceed on the evening of the day on which the riot occurred to the local *kerbela* for the customary burial, of the *tazias* as demanded by the tenets of their faith was an interference with the principle of non-interference with religion professed to be practised by the Government of India.

HITAVADI,  
Mar. 9th, 1906.

The closing of College Square on the occasion of the last Convocation.

7. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th March asks, why was the College Square Park closed to the public on the occasion of the last Convocation of the Calcutta University? Was it the fear of rebellious students or the dreaded possibility of the words *bande mataram* reaching the ears of the Viceroy, the Lieutenant-Governor and other officials that led Mr. Halliday to keep the Park and its neighbourhood clear of spectators? The head of Colootola Street also was kept clear in the same manner with the help of a *posse* of native and European policemen who even went the length of beating a number of innocent pedestrians. Did Mr. Halliday do all this on his own initiative, or had he any orders from his superiors to this effect?

HITAVARTA,  
Mar. 11th, 1906.

The College Square at the time of the University Convocation.

8. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th March is sorry that, as on the occasion of the Prince of Wales' visit to the Senate Hall, the people were not permitted to assemble within and around the College Square on the occasion of the last Convocation when a large number of police constables with their big *lathis* made up for the absence of spectators there.

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,  
Mar. 10th, 1906.

The Jagatballavpur thana in Howrah.

9. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 10th March deprecates a proposal believed to be under the consideration of Government to transfer Jagatballavpur thana to Munshirhat. It is urged that Munshirhat is as much unhealthy owing to malaria as Jagatballavpur is; that it possesses no metalled roadways to connect it with outlying villages, and that it is situated at one extremity of the thana area. That Jagatballavpur thana is at present so malarious is because it is surrounded by trees on all sides and



has no tank in its neighbourhood to draw pure water from. The other parts of Jagatballavpur are not so malarious as this portion, where this thana is located. The village has a school, a post-office, a sub-registry office, a District Board dak bungalow, numerous zamindari *kutcheries*, and it is the seat of some amount of banking business and of trade. It has a railway station too. The removal of the thana from here will be a serious deprivation to the place.

10. A correspondent of the *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 10th March calls upon the District Officer and the District Superintendent of Police of Hooghly to take notice of the conduct of Babu Durga Prosanno Mukerji, Daroga of the Arambagh thana, in a case of theft lately decided before the local Deputy Magistrate in which Babu Kamakhya Prosad Banerji and Dasarathi Banerji were the accused. It is suggested that the Daroga acted from *malice prepense* and in collusion with the man whose property was stolen in subjecting Kamakhya Babu to uncalled for indignity and in *challaning* him as an accused in this case.

RATNAKAR,  
Mar. 10th, 1906.

An allegation against a Daroga in Hooghly.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

11. In noticing the case of the Military Officer who insulted the Judge of the Agra Small Cause Court, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th March is unable to understand the conduct of the local District Judge who, being a gentleman and conversant with the procedure of the Courts, made no attempt to preserve the dignity of a Court of Justice and the honour of his subordinate, but permitted the officer to go away, being influenced by a feeling of race. His conduct has certainly brought discredit on the British name. It is to be hoped, however, that the Judge of the Small Cause Court will stand firm to his resolution.

HITAVARTA,  
Mar. 11th, 1906.

The Agra contempt of Court case.

(d)—Education.

12. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 8th March says that for some years past there have been frequent transfers of professors and teachers in the Chittagong College and Collegiate School. This is deplorable, because such transfers do great harm to the regular studies of the pupils. Again, it is rumoured that a reduction of the staff of teachers in the school is being contemplated by the Government. But will not such reduction lower the standard of instruction in the school?

JYOTI,  
Mar. 8th, 1906.

The Chittagong College and Collegiate School.

13. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 8th March says that the whole trend of Sir Alexander Pedler's last Convocation speech was to prove the necessity of making a large increase in the number of European professors in the Education Department. The effect of this speech, says the writer, will be seen within a year or two, but the speech was nothing but an echo of the real intentions of the Government.

SRI SRI VISHNU-  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAR PATRIKA,  
Mar. 8th, 1906.

Sir Alexander Pedler's Convocation speech.

14. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th March reproduces in substance the article in the *Statesman* of the 4th March regarding the uninteresting nature of Sir Alexander Pedler's Convocation speech and the relief felt by all when it was over. It is said how every one, from His Excellency the Chancellor down to the Commissioner of Police, "succumbed one by one to the narcotic influence of the monotonous and scarcely audible speech of the Vice-Chancellor."

HITAVARTA,  
Mar. 11th, 1906.

Sir A. Pedler's Convocation speech.

15. The *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 10th March after pointing out the omission of the Queen's Proclamation of 1858 from the pages of Sir William Lee-Warner's *Citizen of India* quotes two passages from that book occurring on pages 139 and 155, respectively, in which the author regards famines in India as inevitable occurrences of nature and praises the British Government of India as the first which has attempted to combat them. The paper then

KHULNAVASI,  
Mar. 10th, 1906.

Sir William Lee-Warner's *Citizen of India*.



goes on strongly to controvert the position thus taken up by the author. Various points are suggested by this critic of Sir William's book, the general tendency of the suggestions being that the British Government of India should be held responsible for the occurrence of these famines, and that that Government is not the first which has attempted to combat these visitations.

The concluding criticism is with reference to a quotation from page 76 of the book, where the British are praised for having brought into India "new ideas of freedom and toleration." This statement is sought to be disproved by a reference to the alleged persecution of those engaged in spreading the *Swadeshi* movement and to the alleged placing of impediments in the way of education, such as the introduction of the Kindergarten methods, of Messrs. MacMillan & Co's. text-books, of drill and drawing, and of transfer fees are described to be.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

MALDAH SAMACHAR,  
Mar. 7th, 1906.

16. The *Maldaha Samachar* [Malda] of the 7th March hears that in the forthcoming local municipal elections certain aspirants for the office of Commissioner have offered to buy votes at the rate of a rupee each.

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 8th, 1906.

17. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 8th March says that a strike of milkmen is imminent in Chittagong town owing to the imposition of a tax of Rs. 3 per annum on every cow kept within town limits.

PRASUN,  
Mar. 9th, 1906.

18. The *Prasun* [Katwa] of the 9th March writes that the plague is on the increase at Katwa Town. A general panic prevails, and, some employes on the staff of the newspaper are threatening to leave their posts. Six attacks with three deaths are reported for the week ending the 9th March; the total figures up to date are 28 attacks, 18 deaths and 10 cases still suffering.

NADIA,  
Mar. 10th, 1906.

19. The *Nadia* [Krishnagar] of the 10th March praises Dr. Clayton Lane, the present Civil Surgeon of Nadia, as a most dutiful and expert medical officer, to whose efforts, aided by those of Babu Batuk Bihari Ghose, Vaccination Inspector, is due the present mitigation of the severity with which pox lately raged all over the district. The paper then goes on to speak of the alarm with which it has heard the report that 25 or 26 deaths have already occurred from the plague at Santipur town, the Municipality of which is, of course, doing its best to prevent the spread of the disease.

NIHAR,  
Mar. 13th, 1906.

20. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 13th March writes that the severity of the epidemic of cholera in the Ramnagar thana has not yet abated. Deaths are still occurring daily; the schools, etc., remain closed. The Government has not yet sent down any medical assistance.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Mar. 10th, 1906.

21. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th March draws attention to the prevalence of water scarcity and of cholera in a very small village of the name of Latbadi, thana Rupganj, in Dacca. Seventy deaths from this disease are already reported to have occurred. The complaint of water scarcity is peculiar not to this village alone, but to about a dozen villages in its neighbourhood. Government assistance is solicited to remove the difficulty.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

JYOTI,  
Mar. 10th, 1906.

22. It is rumoured, says the correspondent of the *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 8th March, that the Collector of Chittagong has, owing to the objection of the Forest Department, rejected a petition of the inhabitants of Rangania, praying for a damming of the Ichhamati river for purposes of irrigation. Great distress prevails in Rangania; and the only hope of its inhabitants now lies in the *rabi* crops, the success of which depends on irrigation.



alone. Will the Government abstain from saving the lives of thousands of people out of regard for the petty interests of the Forest Department? The cultivators of Rangania are willing to keep in the proposed dam enough open space to allow the Department's laden boats to pass through.

23. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 8th March says that most of the rivers in Bengal are silting up with the result that the health and the inland trade of the country are gradually deteriorating. The silting up of the

Government unmindful of the claims of rivers and canals.

Bhagirathi is telling on the commercial importance of such big centres of trade as Ajinganj, Baluchar, Murshidabad and Berhampore. But Government, which spends crores of rupees on extensions of railways, does not think of making such an important river navigable. The opening out of the Madaripur *bhil* is fetching the Government a dividend of 5 per cent. on the initial outlay. This shows that re-excavations of khals and cutting and deepening of rivers in this country for purposes of navigation cannot fail to be remunerative. But Government will do nothing of the kind. It spent 12 crores on the Assam-Bengal Railway and the line caused it a loss of 40 lakhs in 1904.

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 8th 1906.

24. With reference to the projected excavation of the Tribeni Canal, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 10th March suggests the desirability, from the point of view of im-

The Tribeni Canal.

proved cultivation, of re-excavating two other streams, also in the Hooghly district, viz., the Saraswati and the Kunti, as well as two silted-up *bhils* in the same locality, those, namely, that adjoin the villages of Sugandha, Gotu, and Amarpur in the one case, and Balikukhari, Senet and Beta in the other.

BANGAVASI,  
Mar. 10th, 1906.

25. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 8th March, after announcing

BANKURA DARPAN,  
Mar. 8th, 1906.

that on the 14th ultimo the Agent of the Bengal-Nagpur line had an interview with the District officer of Bankura, goes on to say that the various wants and complaints in connection with this line, which have been referred to in its columns from time to time, are understood to have been brought to the Agent's notice on this occasion by the District officer. But as yet no remedial action appears to have been taken in connection even with any one of them. The paper therefore appeals for the direct interference of the Lieutenant-Governor.

As regards the wants and complaints above referred to, fresh mention is made of the following:—

(1) Provision for watches at both ends of the bridge over the Dwarkeswar stream.

(2) Provision for wire-fencing on both sides of the line in order to keep off intending suicides, who, according to a recent circular by the Railway authorities on the subject, issued as a result of the case of Driver Forsyth and Raimoni, are no more to be prevented from carrying out their purpose by any railway employé who may chance to come across them.

(3) Withdrawal by official interference of the circular referred to in (2).

Attention is also drawn to the recurring unpunctuality of the mixed train which, leaving Bhangpur at early morning, is expected to reach Bankura by 10 o'clock, but rarely does so before 1. P.M.; and the suggestion is offered in this connection that the mixed goods and passenger train should be discontinued, since its punctuality cannot be generally relied on and a separate local passenger train instituted.

The paper concludes by pointing out that goods trains on the Midnapore-Jheria section have increased from 12 to 18 per diem, and that this increase is responsible for the irregularity of the passenger trains, and that a doubling of the permanent-way is therefore immediately called for.

26. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 10th March makes the following complaints in connection with the Howrah-Amta Light Railway:—

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,  
Mar. 10th, 1906.

The Howrah-Amta Light Rail-  
way.

(1) At Telkul Ghat Station different booking offices for different classes of tickets exist, but are not made use of. First-class and inter-class tickets are issued at the booking office for third-class tickets, thus producing an avoidable crush.

(2) The seats in inter-class carriages are not cushioned.

(3) There is no second-class accommodation.



(4) The up-trains on Saturdays and the down-trains on Mondays are almost regularly overcrowded.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Mar. 10th, 1906.

27. The *daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th March mentions a case in which one Nidhu Thakur and others who had bought tickets for the journey from Howrah to

A railway complaint.

Bally on the 3rd instant, intending to travel by the last train available that day, and who missed their train and availed themselves of the first morning train available the next day, were made to pay fare over again as well as penalty when they arrived at their destination. The paper inquires how it is that the ticket-inspector on duty at Howrah allowed these men, after examining their tickets, to travel, and ascribes this mistake on the ticket-collector's part to the discontinuance of the old practice of indicating on each ticket the particular train for which it was to be available.

(h)—General.

DACCA GAZETTE,  
Mar. 5th, 1906.

28. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 5th March writes as follows in English:—

Mr. Morley and the partition.

So, after all, the fate of Bengal is sealed! The Parliament has not thought it proper to re-open the question. They take the partition as a settled thing and, as such, the Liberals, with all their loud professions of loyalty to the saying, *Vox populi vox Dei*, would not agree to ask the local authorities to reconsider the matter, though they admit that the partition has been carried out against the vehement opposition of the people to be affected by it. This is liberalism! Mr. John Morley is reported to be a man of strong convictions. He is not the man to accept as gospel truth anything that might be placed before him without subjecting it to the crucial test of a thorough personal examination of the same, but, as fate would have it, in matters concerning the vital interests of the people of this ill-fated country, even a man of Mr. Morley's calibre has found it necessary to accept informations at second-hand, as is evidenced by his declaration of faith that he had been assured by the highest authority that the agitation against partition was subsiding. Knowing people will bear us out when we say that Mr. Morley's statement is a fiction, pure and simple. If by the word subsidence Mr. Morley means that people are getting reconciled to the partition day by day, we can only say he is living in a fool's Paradise—that he has not been served right loyally by the Indian *hoozoors*. To any casual reader of Indian newspapers the fact will appear as clear as daylight that the people are far from being reconciled to it. The actions of the local authorities have made the people more resolute than ever to continue their agitation against it. Meetings are being held in all parts of the country protesting against the break-neck precipitancy with which the proceedings in connection with the partition are being conducted.

If the agitation is subsiding at all, it is in the direction of outward demonstration for which no necessity exists at present. What was a dire necessity in October last is no longer a necessity in March—the *modus operandi* has been changed according to the exigency of the case. The whole country is now astir; there has been a perfect unanimity of opinion among the leaders of the country as to the far-reaching evil effect the partition will have on the solidarity of the entire Bengali nation which was being moulded into a homogeneous whole under the fostering care of the benign British Government. We were moving with the flowing tide and making rapid strides towards the realisation of some of our highest ambitions, but the cruel partition will place the dial of our national progress another century back. In short, what little progress the Bengalis have made as a nation during the century and-a-half they have had the benefit of British rule will receive a rude and sudden check under the present administrative arrangement, so carefully thought out by that arch-politician, Lord Curzon. Pity it is that even a Liberal Government should feel no hesitation in perpetuating that cruel wrong.

Mr. Morley has no doubt tried his best to sugar the bitter pill, and this is all the more reprehensible, coming, as it does, from one whose honesty of purpose and high standard of political morality have marked him out as one of the great pillars of the old sturdy Gladstone type of liberalism in whose vocabulary the word expediency had no place.



Is there really any sign of subsidence so vauntingly quoted by Mr. Morley from Indian Official Despatches? If it has subsided at all, we fear the accumulated matter has gone deep down to the foundation of the great edifice that the British statesmen have been building in this country for the last century and-a-half. To speak in plain language, the British Rule in India is established on the willing allegiance of the people who honestly believe that for the regeneration, political, social and moral, of the country, it stands in imperative need of the protecting arm of a great civilized and benevolent Power, and Providence has, in His infinite Wisdom, sent the English people to do the needful, and will take them away as soon as the mission is fulfilled. Such being the case, is it desirable that the pent-up feelings of the people failing to find an outlet in outward demonstration should saturate the underground foundation and thus slacken the love and fidelity of the people to the British Government?

We put it to our rulers to say, which is more conducive to the permanent stability of the British Raj—the free and profuse escape of heated feelings through the safety-valve of outward demonstration or the pent-up feelings to spend themselves as best as they can within air-tight iron cauldrons specially manufactured for the people by its present-day rulers on the Legislative Anvil of the country? And what are we to say of the clear vision of those who could represent this terrible state of things as indicative of the near approach of the clearing up of the atmosphere? To us it is only the lull before the storm.

But we would ask our friends not to give way to despair. It was only a political speech of Mr. Morley, more intended to save appearances than to convey any explicit meaning. Something more may lie hidden in the labyrinth of a political speech than what appears on the surface. So let us hope against hope. We know there is no cloud so thick and dark as to be without its silver lining. There are words in the speech which are susceptible of more than one interpretation; so let us hold our soul in peace in expectation of something better turning up. It is the unexpected that often happens in political as in other mundane affairs.

29. Referring to Mr. Morley's speech on the partition of Bengal, the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 6th March

Mr. Morley on the partition of Bengal.

says that it is impossible for the authorities to shake off the false idea of maintaining the *prestige*

of the Government and maintaining their *aid*. In this world the weak are everywhere hated and disregarded by the strong. It is, therefore, quite natural that the English should consider the Bengalis as cats and dogs. Under such circumstances it is useless for the latter to approach the Government with petitions for redress of their grievances. They can never expect justice from the English in matters in which their interest clashes with that of their rulers.

30. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 6th March writes as follows:—

Mr. Morley and the partition.

The Bengali is today overwhelmed with a mighty grief. Mr. Morley has expressed himself in Parliament unwilling to interfere with Lord Curzon's action in the partition of Bengal. And thus the year-long cry of the Bengali has gone for nothing, and the last thread of hope to which he clung in his adversity has at last snapped asunder. His heart has given way under his load of grief and despair.

Englishmen do not possess the capacity to realise how the Bengali's days have been passing since Mr. Risley published his first scheme of a partition of Bengal. From that day all peace and happiness were vanished from the Bengali home. For a full year the Bengali expressed his sentiments in various ways, and informed the Government of his fears and apprehensions, but his grief failed to melt the adamant heart of the Government of India, and Lord Curzon did not pay the least heed to the Bengali's agitation. In his adversity the Bengali has done what it was possible for him, as belonging to a subject people, to do. But it is not given to man to contend against his fate.

Though the people of India had lost their faith in the authorities in this country, they had faith in the English people. They believed that if their grievances were not removed in this country, England would not refuse to

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,

Mar. 6th, 1906.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Mar 6th, 1906.



listen to their prayers; that the country which erected its glory on Clive's humiliation and Warren Hastings' expiation of his sins would not allow the wrong done by Lord Curzon to continue. Without this belief the Bengalis would not have continued their agitation to the last. Though disappointed over and over again, they made repeated representations of their grievances to the British Government, because they had faith in the English people. But Mr. Morley has given a rude shock to that faith of the Bengalis.

The lesson that the Bengalis have learnt in the present agitation will never die out of their memory. They have realised that there is no difference between Conservatives and Liberals as regards India, and that India has no interest in whether a Brodrick or a Morley becomes the Secretary of State. Our joy at the victory of the Liberal party was quite unwarranted. We deceived ourselves with a vain hope when we saw Mr. Morley, the dearest disciple of the Grand Old Man, at the helm of Indian affairs. We however, cherished in our hearts no aspirations which were impossible of fulfilment. We did not agitate for any high political rights. That we, the whole Bengali nation, should be allowed to remain united under one administration is not certainly an unreasonable prayer. But Englishmen have slighted even this poor prayer of the Bengalis, and Mr. Morley has refused to fulfil their aspirations even in this trifling matter.

We are filled with grief on reflecting on the evil consequences which will follow Mr. Morley's policy in this partition affair. The impression will now take a firm root in the popular mind in India that if the rulers of this country do any wrong, there is no tribunal where redress can be obtained. The Secretary of State has clearly told us that a subject nation has no right to indulge in political agitation. And there is a cry all over the land that it is useless to represent our grievances to the British Government. The political wiseacres of England are not doing right to create this feeling of despair in India; because if the feeling goes on strengthening, the work of administration will become more and more difficult. Ireland is an illustration in point to show how difficult the venom of distrust and discontent renders the work of administration. No intelligent Englishman will like to convert Bengal into a volcano, for such conversion is desirable neither for the rulers nor for the ruled. But the policy which the Secretary of State has chosen to pursue in regard to the partition question is sure to be followed by popular distrust and discontent.

Reader, you had thought one day that a change of ministry in England would bring about a reversal of the partition and of the unnatural policy inaugurated by Lord Curzon. But you did not then think that the interest of the Bengalis was too insignificant a thing in comparison with British prestige. The Secretary of State could not justify the partition effected by Lord Curzon, and admitted that Bengal had been dismembered in disregard of universal protest of the Bengali people. Still he refused to undo the partition on a very slight pretext. Has Mr. Morley then done us this grievous wrong simply under the delusion of prestige? Alas, where is the man whose faith can remain unshaken after this downfall of a Liberal Minister?

The Bengali has now been placed in a very critical situation. Shall we remain silent because Mr. Morley has disappointed us? Shall we lose heart under this disappointment? Shall we allow the awakening of national life, at which we have been delighted, to vanish? It is to be hoped that no Bengali will follow such a suicidal course. No nation has ever risen in a day or two. Ireland has agitated for a century, but has not yet succeeded in gaining what she aims at. We should take courage from the example of other nations and keep disappointment at a distance. The truth is that the result of the Parliamentary discussion will increase the agitation a hundred-fold, and the fire that has been kindled in Calcutta will envelope the whole of Bengal. We shall never contentedly accept the partition, but raise our voice in loud protest from every village and every town. The torrent of *Swadeshi* agitation will shake all India. Awake one and all without the least delay and arrange for protest meetings at every centre. Mr. Morley has committed a serious mistake. In the hope of establishing peace in Bengal he has brought in serious disquiet there.



## 31. Referring to Mr. Morley's speech on the partition of Bengal, the

*Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika*

Mr. Morley on the partition of Bengal.

[Calcutta] of the 8th March writes as follows:—

We have always held the opinion that it is not in Mr. Morley's power to undo what Lord Curzon has done. But we take objection to this statement made by the Secretary of State that the feeling against the partition is subsiding. Even if this statement be supposed to be true, is it not the duty of a Liberal Secretary of State to annul a measure which was carried against the unanimous wish of a whole nation in order to serve some selfish end of the Government? No agitation can be everlasting, especially in a country like Bengal, where people are naturally averse to political agitations. Still the agitation against the partition assumed a magnitude unparalleled in the history of the country. But instead of doing any good this agitation only served to bring down all sorts of official oppression on the heads of the people. Public meetings were prohibited and people taking part in the agitation were persecuted. If in spite of all this Lord Minto has informed Mr. Morley that the feeling against the partition is subsiding, means must be adopted to inform the latter of the real state of things. The partition is still a rankling sore in the hearts of the Bengalis. It is only fear of the Government which prevents them from giving full expression to their feeling. But the agitation against the partition is still living, and it is a pity that Lord Minto does not keep himself informed of all this. Another argument brought forward by Mr. Morley against a reversal of the partition was that the partition was an accomplished fact. It did not redound to the glory of a Liberal of Mr. Morley's stamp to use such an argument. Was not Mr. Brodrick's sanction to the partition given under such circumstances as to make it improper according to the rules of procedure obtaining in the House of Commons? Even Sir Henry Fowler says it was improper. It is, therefore, inconceivable, how a great Liberal like Mr. Morley could reconcile himself to it. The Secretary of State perhaps knows nothing about India. Lord Minto's knowledge of the country is also *nil*, and it was most probably Lord Curzon's words which he transmitted to Mr. Morley.

SRI SRI VISHNU-  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAR PATRIKA,  
Mar. 8th, 1906.

32. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 9th March says that Mr. Morley's

attitude in the matter of the partition of Bengal

Mr. Morley and the partition of Bengal.

shows that his liberalism does not extend to India.

The inherent nature of an Englishman never forsakes him whether he is a Conservative, a Liberal or a Radical. English Liberalism will never confer high privileges on Indians or check the despotism of the Government of India to the prejudice of the interests of Englishmen.

SAMAY,  
Mar. 9th, 1906.

## 33. Referring to the holding of twenty meetings simultaneously in

different parts of Calcutta on the 3rd March last

Mr. Morley and the partition.

to protest against Mr. Morley's statement that the

agitation against the partition was dying out, the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 9th March enquires why the leaders of the Hindu community, those cool-headed men, that is, who have half-a-century of experience in conducting political agitation, have now suddenly become deranged in mind. One cannot understand the necessity there was for this boyish display. The English, the rulers of the country, are a powerful race. How can those who seek to obtain what they want from such a people by means other than amicable, be described otherwise than as insane? Cannot work be done silently? Everybody can feel what the outcome will be if the *Swadeshi* agitation is to be used as a cloak for the boycott of British goods as a retaliation for the partition. Success may be achieved if the *Swadeshi* movement is pushed on wholly apart from any connection with political ends.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Mar. 9th, 1906.

34. In the opinion of the *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 10th March, there is

no necessity of any renewal of agitation against

Mr. Morley and the partition.

the partition. What is now wanted are meetings

to spread the boycott of things British, and endeavours to cheapen and improve the quality of indigenous goods. The adoption of such a course is calculated to do good to the country not a hundredth part of which can be got from petitioning Government for a thousand years in succession.

RATNAKAR,  
Mar. 10th, 1906.



HOWRAH HITAISHI,  
Mar. 10th, 1906.

35. Referring to Mr. Morley's speech on the partition of Bengal, the *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 10th March

Mr. Morley and the partition of Bengal. says:—

This time we must do something which will make Englishmen realise that in the Kingdom of God wrong-doers and abettors of wrong-doing never escape punishment. Bengalis may be weak, cowardly, lifeless, poor and unarmed, but there is no questioning the fact that they are more spiritually-minded and God-fearing than Englishmen. And their spiritual strength will now make itself felt in the boycott of English goods. The Bengalis may not show their excitement by shedding the blood of their rulers, but, by means of lawful unity and earnestness of purpose, they are sure to check the rigour of the Government. There is no sedition in the Bengali's boycott of British goods. The God-fearing Hindus and Musalmans will never take up arms against their Sovereign. If the boycott succeeds, the real danger will come from English labourers who, if thrown out of employment, will surely make matters too hot for the Government. It is no mad idea that the tears of the eight crores of Bengalis will be able to check the brutality of a handful of Englishmen.

BANGAVASI,  
Mar. 10th, 1906

36. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 10th March writes as follows with reference to Mr. Morley's recent pronouncements in Parliament on the partition question:—

Mr. Morley and the partition.

Examine the history of the entire period of British rule in India, and you will find that in cases where you stood to lose and the English to gain the cries of millions of throats have not produced any effect. Look at the case of the Arms Act for instance. But measures where you stood to gain something and the English to lose nothing, you have succeeded in obtaining when you have asked for them, and you may even get them without the asking. Has it not been made clear to you even now that political agitation in India is futile and beyond your rights? Devote yourselves to the *Swadeshi* cause, dissociated from politics.

BANGAVASI,

37. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 10th March publishes a cartoon under the heading "Morley-mirage," in which

A cartoon.

Mr. Morley is shown as the sun throwing out rays which delude a number of deer (with human faces) into mistaking land for water; these deer are represented some as having taken plunges forward, others as being held back by a number of human beings.

The letterpress is as follows:—

"Led by a mistaken view of water produced by the sun's rays, the maddened deer rushes on to appease its thirst. Its friend in distress warns it that there is not a drop of water there, and that it will be disappointed to find that it is only a mirage."

BHARAT MITRA,  
Mar. 10th, 1906.

38. Seeing that almost all Government measures under the last as well as the present ministry have been sanctioned simply as a matter of courtesy to those who devised

The Government policy.

them, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 10th March observes that King Edward's reign deserves to be called a reign of courtesy just as the reign of His Majesty's august mother was a reign of clemency and goodness.

Mr. Broderick sanctioned the partition of Bengal out of courtesy to Lord Curzon and relieved His Lordship of the charge of India out of courtesy to Lord Kitchener. Mr. Balfour was allowed to continue in his office in spite of his defeats in deference to his wishes. Things have hardly improved with the advent of the new ministry. Mr. Morley, though convinced of the dangerous character of the army reform vesting Lord Kitchener with enormous powers, has not interfered with it out of courtesy and with the partition through fear of Lord Minto's resignation. No one cares for the lamentations of the people.

HITAVARTA,  
Mar. 11th, 1906.

39. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th March says that some of the Anglo-Indian contemporaries are very jubilant over the refusal of Parliament to consider the

The partition of Bengal in Parliament.

motion regarding the partition of Bengal, but there is hardly cause for it. Mr. Herbert Roberts has withdrawn his motion, but he may make his motion again on a suitable opportunity. If the Bengalis



in the meantime continue their agitation, Mr. Morley will be compelled to admit that the agitation has not subsided.

40. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 11th March says that the partition of Bengal being now an accomplished fact the inhabitants of the new province must make the best

DACCA PRAKAS,  
Mar. 11th, 1906.

What Eastern Bengal should do.

of the worst situation. Every effort should be

made to preserve and foster the feeling of nationality among them, and with such men as the Maharaja of Mymensingh, the Maharaja of Natore, Babus Ananda Mohan, Ambika Charan, Aswinikumar, Sitanath, Anandra Chandra, Jatra Mohan, and Messrs. Gaznavi, Rasul and A. Chaudhuri as their leaders, the task does not at all seem an impossible one. These leaders should lose no time in deciding upon the course of action which they should now follow. Powerful associations representing the landed interest and the public should be at once established on the model of those existing in Western Bengal. Really able and patriotic men should be elected to watch the country's interests in the Legislative Council, and the feeling of unity which is steadily growing among all the inhabitants of India should be carefully fostered. Separated from Western Bengal, Eastern Bengal must learn to stand upon its own legs, and the task, though a very difficult one, is not altogether impossible. The *Swadeshi* agitation must be maintained at all costs because the prosperity of the country depends on its success. And people must learn to avoid the temptations of service. But all this must be done without incurring the displeasure of the Government. It would be madness to expect success by making Government an enemy.

41. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 7th March suggests the desirability of opening a post-office at village Baisdia, in the Patuakhali subdivision of Backerganj. The village contains a population of about 20,000 heads, who take in and send out a large number of letters, newspapers, parcels, etc.

KASIPUR NIVASI,  
Mar. 7th, 1906.

Wanted a post-office.

42. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 8th March says that the *Daily News* of London published a letter from its Calcutta correspondent in which it was said that Sir B. Fuller had advised the Magistrate of Sirajgunge to suppress the *Swadeshi* movement by hammering on men's heads. The *Pioneer* of Allahabad, however, says that His Honour gave no such advice. This defence does not carry much weight, because it comes neither from Sir Bamfylde nor from the Magistrate of Sirajgunge. There is no gain-saying the fact that the beginning of police oppression at Sirajgunge was synchronous with the visit of Sir Bamfylde to the town. The statement made by the Calcutta correspondent of the *Daily News* cannot, therefore, be disbelieved on the evidence of the *Pioneer* alone. And the manner in which Sir Bamfylde has been since conducting himself does not at all make it impossible for him to have given the advice of hammering.

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 8th, 1906.

Sir B. Fuller and the *Daily News* of London.

Sir B. Fuller had advised the Magistrate of Sirajgunge to suppress the *Swadeshi* movement by hammering on men's heads.

The *Pioneer* of Allahabad, however, says that His Honour gave no such advice. This defence does not carry much weight, because it comes neither from Sir Bamfylde nor from the Magistrate of Sirajgunge. There is no gain-saying the fact that the beginning of police oppression at Sirajgunge was synchronous with the visit of Sir Bamfylde to the town. The statement made by the Calcutta correspondent of the *Daily News* cannot, therefore, be disbelieved on the evidence of the *Pioneer* alone. And the manner in which Sir Bamfylde has been since conducting himself does not at all make it impossible for him to have given the advice of hammering.

43. Referring to the appointment of the Assam Labour Commission, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th March writes as follows:—

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Mar. 9th, 1906.

The Assam Labour Commission.

The Assam cooly law is a blemish on the reputation of the Government of India. By it the British Government has introduced a sort of slave trade in India in the interest of tea-planters. The law no doubt provides that no one is to be made a cooly against his will. But in practice this provision shares the fate of many a law in India, and is honoured more in its breach than in its observance. Every one knows what artful means are employed by *arkatis* to induce poor Sonthal villagers to make contracts of service in tea-gardens. Sometimes such contracts are forged without the knowledge of the poor victims. There are Government officers whose duty it is to look after the health of garden-coolies and inquire if any recruit is unwilling to go to Assam. But these officers generally fail to see through the tactics of the wily *arkatis*, and are often silenced by bribes. Everyone will admit that this state of things should not be allowed to continue. But every time Government makes an effort to mitigate the sufferings of the garden-coolies, its purpose is defeated by the clamours of the powerful tea-planters. It now remains to be seen what the newly-appointed Commission will advise in the matter. It will, however, be a matter of the greatest regret if, in consequence



of its report, the sufferings of the poor garden-coolies are in any way increased. Most of the objections commonly raised by the planting community against an abolition of the contract system are extremely flimsy. As to the objection that if the contract system is abolished coolies employed in one garden may be tempted away by the management of another garden, it can be removed by the formation of a league among the planters with a common agreement not to employ a cooly-deserter.

SWADES,  
Mar. 12th, 1906.

44. Referring to the appointment of the Assam Labour Commission, the *Swadesh* [Calcutta] of the 12th March writes as follows:—

The Assam Labour Commission. It was Englishmen whose hearts once melted at the sufferings of Negro slaves and who once looked upon the American Slave-owners as divels incarnate. But to-day the descendants of those large-hearted Englishmen do not shrink from committing all sorts of oppression on the cooly slaves employed in the Assam tea-gardens. Self-interest alone accounts for this regrettable change. In a conflict of interests, the weaker party must go to the wall. Both Lord Ripon and Lord Curzon had to give way before the powerful tea-planters in their efforts to mitigate the sufferings of the tea-garden coolies. It now remains to be seen what Lord Minto and his Commission will do.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Mar. 9th, 1906.

45. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 9th March refers to the paucity of Musalmans in Government service in the districts of the Presidency Division, and ascribes it, not as is done in the official reports, wholly to the want of education among the members of the community, since education has now spread among Musalmans to a considerable extent, Musalman B. A.'s and undergraduates being numerous now, but to the obstructive influences of the Hindu underlings who man all the Government offices and through whose hands every application must pass before it reaches the European superior officer.

After pointing to the discouraging influence which the continued neglect by Government of the claims of such Musalmans as have already received a sufficiently high education is calculated to exercise on the spread of education amongst the community generally, the paper concludes with an appeal to Government to no longer remain indifferent to the claims of a loyal section of its subjects who lack the pushfulness of the Hindus and thereby to give the lie to the impression suggested by its present attitude that it wishes to keep the former repressed by the latter.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,

46. The same paper, in the course of a different article, writes that the Musalmans of Bengal have now fallen on evil days; and there is no denying that their condition is still passing from the bad to the worse. The explanation for this state of things is to be sought in (1) the injustice of a benevolent Government, (2) the traitorous attitude of Musalman zamindars towards members of their own community and their liking for Hindus.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Mar. 9th, 1906.

47. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th March, after expressing pleasure that the Government of Bengal has, as the result of the recent agitation in its columns on the subject, issued orders for the redress of the grievances of the compositors of the Secretariat Press, goes on to say that Mr. Chalmers is now adopting various devices to punish his subordinates, which, if found necessary, will be detailed on a later occasion. The types and "pie" which hitherto lay scattered about in the yard are now being hastily collected and cleaned. It should be observed in this connection that the expense of these operations ought to be borne by Mr. Chalmers and not by Government.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Mar. 10th, 1906.

48. On the authority of a correspondent, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th March accuses Mr. Bishop, Superintendent of the Government Press, Rangoon, of having, on the occasion of his confirmation in his present office in December last, permitted himself, against official rules on the subject, to receive presents and an address as well as to participate in a feast, the money for all which was collected from his office subordinates.

An allegation against Mr. Bishop, Superintendent of Government Press, Rangoon.



49. In noticing Lord Curson's letter to the *Times* on the subject of the Indian Army Reform recently sanctioned by

BEHARAT MITRA,  
Mar. 10th, 1906.

Lord Curson on the Indian Army Reform Scheme.

the Secretary of State, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 10th March says that the late Viceroy

continues to possess the energy he had in spite of his discomfiture. He wants to know who were the colleagues of Mr. Brodrick in framing the Army scheme. But why? Does he want to know anything about the partition too? What is he now that he should want to know anything, and why should any one care to tell him what he wants to know?

50. After quoting certain passages from Lord Minto's speeches delivered in England and Bombay in which he gave an outline of the policy he meant to adopt during his

HITAVARTA,  
Mar. 11th, 1906.

Lord Minto's promise.

administration of India, one Gopal Prosan Sharma of Raisalpur writes to the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 11th March to say that one is surprised that Lord Minto who gave such assurances should not have taken any steps to put a stop to the misgovernment of Sir. Bamfylde Fuller. Has the shout of *Bande Mataram* anything to do with sedition? Does the use of *swadeshi* goods mean rebellion? If not, why is the New Province being subjected to the oppression of the Gurkhas?

51. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 19th March publishes the following in English:—

DACCA GAZETTE,  
Mar. 19th, 1906.

"Physician, Heal Thyself."

Boycott is the order of the day. It is therefore no wonder that our rulers should be more or less infected by the all-pervading spirit of the day. To speak the truth, without some such explanation, we cannot at all persuade ourselves to believe that Sir Bamfylde Fuller would agree to stultify his reputation as a high-minded, far-seeing ruler by having recourse to a line of action which smacks of, to use a mild term, peevishness with reference to the *Weekly Chronicle* of Sylhet.

The head and front of the guilt of the "*Chronicle*" is that it published, in common with a hundred other papers of the country, a short account of an alleged criminal assault upon a Mehter woman by a constable of the Gurkha Military Police.

It appears that the woman at the last stage refused to sign the petition of complaint that the mukhtear drafted for her for submission to the Magistrate. It is said that the husband of the woman objected to go to law courts for the fear of social ostracism by his caste people. The Government of Sir Bamfylde Fuller is making capital of this refusal, and characterises the whole story as false. Relying upon this theory, the Chief Secretary of the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam called upon the Editor to withdraw the statement made in his paper.

It passes our comprehension, why the Government should insist upon the withdrawal of the statement. It is not clear, why Sir Bamfylde Fuller's Government should betray such unusual anxiety for the good name and reputation of the Gurkha constable? Technically speaking, Sir Bamfylde had no *locus standi* in the matter, the utmost the Government could do was to compel the constable to sue the Editor for defamation in a Court of justice.

But instead of doing anything of the kind, the all-powerful Lieutenant Governor has had recourse to the defensive weapon of a weak party—the boycott which he condemns in such unmeasured terms when resorted to by the natives of the country in their extreme helplessness.

But what effect will this fulmination have upon the native journals? Has it any chance of making any impression upon the Editor? We think not. Sir Bamfylde must have ill-calculated his strength should he think that the firing of the blank cartridge of an official boycott would scare away this crow of a native journalist.

The withdrawal of the high sounding official support! What is that support, please? It consists of a few blue-books containing information perhaps of an Exhibition to be held in Kamaschatka and so forth!

As regards official advertisements, the less said the better. We do not think that more than a couple of hundreds of rupees is realised from this source. Be that as it may, nobody ever dreamt, this was to be regarded as a hush money. The sting lies there. It is a pity that Sir Bamfylde Fuller's inauguration of the



DAILY HITAVADI,  
Mar. 13th, 1906.

new Provincial Government should be marked by such hasty actions for which he will have to repent in his calmer moments. What more need we say?

52. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th March writes that the people of India are willing to keep the Indian Army at a strength sufficient to defend their country from

Indian Army expenses.

foreign foes ; and they do not grudge contributing their quota to the defence of the Empire as a whole. But they do object strongly to maintaining that army at its present numerical strength, because, so far as can be foreseen, there is not even a remote possibility of a foreign invasion in the near future. The question of army expense will shortly come up for debate in Parliament, and it is to be hoped that Mr. Haldane will handle this question fearlessly, for any proposals of reduction in the Indian Army are sure to evoke a strong opposition from many members.

DAILY HITAVADI.

53. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th March writes that now-a-days in and about Calcutta, many people as well as the Railways refuse to accept

Rupees of 1835 and 1840.

rupees coined in 1835 and 1840. Such refusal causes great inconvenience to the public, and is one that calls for an inquiry into the facts of the case. Has any official order been issued against the circulation of these coins ? If so, it should be proclaimed by beat of drums in the villages, where an idea now seems to be gaining ground that no coins but those of Edward VII are henceforth to constitute legal tender.

NIHAR,  
Mar. 13th, 1906.

54. A correspondent writes to the *Nihar* [Contai] of the 13th March deploring that the zamindars, although they collect the road-cess regularly from their raiyats, do not

The raiyat and the road-cess.

do anything towards the construction or repair of roads or embankments on their estates, and suggesting that Government should, in the interest of the tenants, collect the road-cess and the public works cess direct from them and undertake the duty of spending the proceeds in the excavation of canals and the erection of embankments.

### III.—LEGISLATION.

HITAVADI  
Mar. 9th, 1906.

55. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th March says that Mr. Carlyle's statement in the Bengal Legislative Council that famine is not apprehended in Bengal and Bihar is not justified by the actual state of things in the

The question of famine in the Bengal Council.

country. The increase in the price of rice has already produced a good deal of distress, so that it will not do for the Government simply to-keep an eye on the situation as it has promised to do. Measures should be adopted to prevent any more export of rice and keep its price low.

BENGAVASI,  
Mar. 10th, 1906.

56. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 10th March says that Mr. Carlyle's statement in the Bengal Legislative Council that famine is not apprehended in Bengal and Bihar is not based on facts. The price of rice is steadily

The question of scarcity in the Bengal Council.

increasing. Severe distress prevails in the Backergunge district. The last two weeks' rains have done great harm to the *rabi* crops. The writer says from personal knowledge that great distress prevails in the Kondhara, Viletpur, Ranir Bheri and other villages in the Hooghly district. Reports of distress are published every week in newspapers. Why should Government disbelieve them all, and believe every word of what a police-officer or a village chaukidar says?

### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SURID,  
Mar. 4th, 1906.

57. The *Surid* [Noakhali] of the 4th March says:—

The present condition of the country.

Oppression and injustice now reign in the country. Hundreds of thousands are dying of cholera, small-pox and plague. Heavy taxation has ruined the people. The shadow of a dreadful famine is before us. India is going to be turned into a grave-yard. If the subjects live, they can have a Sovereign at any time ; if the raiyats live they can have a zamindar at any time. But there can be no kingdom or zamindari in a wilderness. It should be the primary duty of the king to dispense justice and maintain peace and contentment in the country by punishing wrong-doers and helping the good.



Kingdoms are lost through injustice. Remember the fate of the oppressive, whimsical tyrannical Nawab, Seraj-ud-Daula.

58. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 5th March writes that it is a hopeful thing that people's eyes have now been opened at last. No more will they look longingly to distant England. Henceforth everybody will direct his attention home-wards, and no longer will court disappointment by looking for help from outside. Henceforth the people of the country must learn to stand on their own legs. The *swadeshi* movement must be the one sheet-anchor of the country so to speak. If it lives, it does not matter if Bengal is partitioned into hundred fragments instead of into two. Let this truth be impressed deeply on the minds of the masses of the country that without the *swadeshi* movement, the very name of the Bengali race is doomed to extinction. The struggle for life is becoming daily harder and harder. If one is to come out of this struggle and live, one must be a *swadeshi*.

DACCA GAZETTE,  
Mar. 5th, 1906.

59. The *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 7th March publishes a fervent exhortation to the Bengali people once more to envelop the whole face of their country with the fumes of a strong flame of agitation. A house-to-house campaign of boycott of things British must be undertaken. There is no time to look back now; use must be made of this unfailing weapon of terrible power spelling death to Manchester.

JASOHAR,  
Mar. 7th, 1906.

60. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapur] of the 7th March publishes an appendix sheet exhorting the Hindu public in the names of the gods Sri Krishna and Sri Gauranga to bind themselves by a promise not to use red powder of foreign manufacture on the occasion of the *holi* festival.

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Mar. 7th, 1906.

61. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 8th March publishes accounts of public meetings held at the following places to protest against the partition and stimulate the *swadeshi* movement:—

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 8th, 1906.

Jamalpur,  
Barisal.  
Bhola,  
Berhampore.  
Sherpur,  
Mymensingh.

Chandpur.  
Rajshahi.  
Faridpur.  
Mymensingh.  
Backergunge.  
Mymensingh.

62. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 8th March says that Mr. Morley's statement in the House of Commons that the feeling against the partition is subsiding has made people mad with rage. Twenty meetings were held on one and the same day in Calcutta to protest against the partition and renew the boycott movement.

[SANJIVANI]

63. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th March says that at a recent meeting of the Cambrian Society in Johannesburg it was said that the English and the Boers were co-partners. It was these Boers who only the other day made every household in England mourn the loss of a husband, brother, father or son, and to-day they have become friends and partners of the English. But the Indians who have lived peacefully under the English for a century and-a-half, and whose timely help saved the British Indian Empire from being totally destroyed during the Sepoy mutiny, are still hated natives in the eyes of the white rulers. This clearly shows that it is brute force and not love, which is honoured by the English. The manner in which they are oppressing the Indians will soon make the latter lose their natural feeling of loyalty towards them.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Mar. 9th, 1906.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

64. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 3rd March states that the sky was clear and the cold severe in the Cuttack town last week.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
Mar. 3rd, 1906.



UTKALDIPIKA.  
Mar. 3rd, 1906.

65. The Kendupatna correspondent of the same paper says that good rain fell in that part of the Cuttack district in the last week.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI.  
Feb. 24th, 1906.

66. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 24th February states that the recent heavy rainfall in that State has been extremely injurious to the people in more

Weather in Bamra.

ways than one. It has injured unthreshed paddy, and the unexpected flood caused by it in the Brahmini river has destroyed many standing crops growing on its sides and has carried off timbers stored on the river-bed by merchants.

UTKALDARPA,  
Feb. 26th, 1906.

67. The *Utkaldarpa* [Sambalpur] of the 26th February states that the sky was slightly cloudy and the cold a little more sensible in the last week.

Weather in Sambalpur.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
Mar. 1st, 1906.

68. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 1st March states that there was no rain in the last week and that slight cold was felt.

Weather in Balasore.

UTKALDIPIKA.  
Mar. 3rd, 1906.

69. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 3rd March states that small-pox and cholera prevail slightly in the Cuttack town.

Public health in Cuttack.

The Kendupatna correspondent of the same paper states that cholera has broken out in Salepur, Khandasahi, Palada and other villages of the Cuttack district.

UTKALDIPIKA.

70. The same paper learns from its contemporary of the *Star of Utkal* that three of the chaukidars who had been called to Puri on the occasion of the Lieutenant-Governor's late visit to that town died of cholera there.

Public health in Puri.

UTKALDARPA  
Feb. 26th, 1906.

71. The *Utkaldarpa* [Sambalpur] of the 26th February states that cholera prevails in Sambalpur town as well as in the interior of that district.

Public health in Sambalpur.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
Feb. 28th, 1906.

72. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 28th February states that fever, small-pox, cholera, measles and other diseases prevail both in and out of the Balasore

Public health in Balasore.

town.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
Mar. 1st, 1906.

73. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 1st March states that small-pox and cow-pox prevail in village Bargan near Balasore town.

UTKALDIPIKA.  
Mar. 3rd 1906.

74. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 3rd March states that a boat containing 11 persons was capsized in the Sirua river near Urali, and that one of the persons was

Accidents in Cuttack.

drowned.

The Kendupatna correspondent of the same paper states that a Muhammadan of Sungna village was found dead in a boat that was sailing from Cuttack. It is said that he was all well when the boat started from Cuttack.

UTKALDIPIKA.

75. The Cuttack correspondent of the same paper writes to say that Raja Brajasundar Deb of killa Aul bagged a tiger in that killa, which was a notorious man-eater.

A man-eater bagged.

UTKALDIPIKA.

76. The Sankhatras correspondent of the same paper states that a crocodile in the Sirua river wounded a teacher of the Deuli School.

A dangerous crocodile.

UTKALDIPIKA

77. The Sankhatras correspondent of the same paper states that scarcity of water is apprehended there in spite of the recent showers of rain.

Scarcity of water in different parts of Orissa.

A Cuttack correspondent of the same paper writes to say that scarcity of water prevails in many places in the districts of Orissa, and that the District Boards do not pay due attention to the matter. The writer draws particular attention to the condition of a tank situated near the junction of the Grand Trunk Road and the Fulnakhra-Madhab Road, which needs immediate repairs. It is very useful to travellers, and it should attract the immediate attention of the local authorities.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI.  
Feb. 24th, 1906.

78. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 24th February states that great sufferings are in store for the people of Bamra, for they have lost not only paddy but

Distress in Sambalpur.

other crops too.



79. Referring to the sufferings of the people of Backergunge from want of food on the one hand and from police oppression on the other, the same paper advises the Government of East Bengal to deal with them fairly and sympathetically.  
Distress in Backergunge. SAMBALPUR HITAINISHI, Feb. 24th, 1906.
80. In reviewing the state of crops, water, fodder, etc., in the different provinces of India, the *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 28th February draws a very sad picture of the country, and observes that a widespread famine prevails in many parts of India and that it is growing in intensity and magnitude.  
Distress in India. URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD, Feb. 28th, 1906.
81. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 3rd March states that food-stuffs are very dear in the Garjat States, and that the export of rice is going on briskly. The writer advises the Rajas of those States to put a stop to this unreasonable export of rice.  
High prices of food-stuffs in Garjat States. GARJATBASINI, Mar. 3rd, 1906.
82. Referring to the high prices of food-stuffs in Bengal and to the consequent correspondence between the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the Governments of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam on the subject, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 3rd March approves of the action of the Chamber of Commerce, and observes that both the Governments should gather all necessary information on the subject not only from official sources, but from other reliable sources by instituting special enquiries with a view to meet any emergency that may arise.  
The Governments of Bengal and East Bengal forewarned. UTKALDIPIKA, Mar. 3rd, 1906.
83. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 1st March states that rinderpest prevails in Gopalgan-sahi of the Balasore town.  
Cattle disease in Balasore and Cuttack. SAMVAD VAHIKA, Mar. 1st, 1906.
- The same paper states that rinderpest prevails in village Barhagan, near the Balasore town.  
The Kendupatna correspondent of the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 3rd March states that rinderpest prevails in village Purnapari.  
84. The *Utkaldarpan* [Sambalpur] of the 26th February states that the mango crop in that district was much injured by the recent showers of rain.  
The mango in Sambalpur. SAMVAD VAHIKA.  
UTKALDIPIKA, Mar. 3rd, 1906.  
UTKALDARPAN, Feb. 26th, 1906.
85. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 28th February states that the mango crop was almost entirely destroyed by the recent unseasonable heavy rainfall.  
The mango in Balasore. URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD, Feb. 28th, 1906.
86. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 3rd March states that the files of the Cuttack Civil Court are being cleared off by the two Subordinate Judges that work in that Court, and that this has brought great relief to the suitors.  
Arrears in the Cuttack Civil Court. UTKALDIPIKA, Mar. 3rd, 1906.
87. The same paper states that sales of estates for arrears of land revenue and sales of raiyati lands for arrears of rent were simultaneously held on the 26th February in the Cuttack Collectorate, and that the purchasers and defaulters being unable to attend different Courts at the same time were greatly inconvenienced.  
Land sales in Cuttack. UTKALDIPIKA.
88. The same paper states that the Hindu community is grateful to the Prince of Wales for his donation of Rs. 1,500 to the Hindu temples at Benares, and observes that this favour shown to the Hindus at Benares like those shown to the Sikhs at Amritsar and to the Muhammadans at Delhi makes it clear that the Prince wants to be popular among all classes of the King-Emperor's subjects.  
The Prince's donation to the Hindu temples at Benares. UTKALDIPIKA.
89. The same paper approves of the appointment of Babu Abanindranath Thakur as Officiating Principal of the Government School of Art, Calcutta, *vice* Mr. Havell, on leave, and observes that no Bengali gentleman ever filled that office before.  
A judicious appointment to the Calcutta School of Art. UTKALDIPIKA.
90. A correspondent of the same paper writes to say that the management of the Pipli Middle English School, which receives a grant of Rs. 20 a month from the Puri District Board, is very bad, and suggests that it would be to the interest of the school if the Christian Missionary gentleman



stationed at Pilpi were appointed as its Secretary. The Editor approves of the suggestion.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
Feb. 28th, 1906.

91. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 28th February thanks Babu Kanailal Bogla for his donation of Rs. 10,000 towards the upkeep of the pilgrims' rest-house, founded by him in the town of Puri and opened the other day by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,

92. The same paper also thanks Babu Radha Charan Das, who has promised to pay Rs. 500 towards the re-excavation of two tanks in the Balasore district.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
Mar. 3rd, 1906.

93. Referring to the disputes between Hindus and Muhammadans at Samantapur in Bhadrak in the Balasore district over the play of music on public streets near Muhammadan masjids, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 3rd March agrees with its contemporary of the *Utkalbasi* in the latter's observation that the Hindus and Muhammadans are permanent residents of India and that they therefore cannot afford to waste their energy and money in picking quarrels with one another. They have lived together in India for many centuries, and they will live together in that country for many more centuries. It is therefore reasonable that the leaders of both the communities should meet together at once and take such steps in a liberal and sympathetic spirit as to enable any one community in India to celebrate its own social and religious ceremonies without in any way offending or wounding the tender susceptibilities of any other community in that country.

UTKALDIPIKA.

94. Referring to the speech made by the Raja of Dhenkanal on the day of his coronation, the same paper observes that the speech should not have been in the English language, as the audience to whom it was addressed did not know that language. It is true that the purport of the speech was explained after its delivery to the vernacular-knowing subjects present on the spot by Babu Banamali Sing: still the original speech should have been in Uriya. The writer hopes that the Raja will follow the example of his grandfather Bhagirathi Mahendra Bahadur as promised by him, and thereby give a Uriya tone to the administration, which has become thoroughly Anglicised in the last 30 years.

UTKALDARPAN,  
Feb. 26th, 1906.

95. The *Utkaldarpan* [Sambalpur] of the 26th February observes that the *Uriya and Navasamvad* of Balasore is trying to create party-spirit among the Uriyas and Bengalis of Orissa by uniformly upholding the claims of the domiciled Bengalis whenever a vacancy occurs in any department of Government service and is thereby injuring the cause of union. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 28th February accuses *Manorama* of Baripada of creating a split between the Uriyas and Bengalis in Mayurbhanj. The effect of the writings of the above named paper being that the *Utkaldarpan* and *Manorama* are ranged on the side of the Uriyas against the *Uriya and Navasamvad* supported by *Utkaldipika* and *Sambalpur Hitaishini*, ranged on the side of the Bengalis.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
Feb. 28th, 1906

96. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 28th February is of opinion that Mayurbhanj has shown signs of agricultural and economical development under its present Chief, whose unostentatious habit, single-minded devotion and business-like nature have contributed in no small degree towards its success.

UTKALDARIPAN.  
Feb. 26th, 1906.

97. Referring to the observation of the *Utkaldipika* that the Magistrate of Kendrapara is not fit to be placed in charge of a subdivision the *Utkaldarpan* [Sambalpur] of the 26th February points out that as the editor of the *Dipika* was personally involved in the criminal case that brought about the observation, its opinion had no value in the eyes of the public, and quotes details to show that the Subdivisional Officer of Kendrapara was right in his judgment, which was upset by the District Magistrate on a technical ground.



98. The same paper agrees with the *Star of Utkal* that the communication between Cuttack and Sambalpur is very defective and unsatisfactory. The *Star of Utkal* suggests that a canal passing through Angul and wide enough for steam-boats may place Sambalpur within easy reach of Cuttack, whereas the *Utkaldarpan* strongly advocates the construction of a branch railway between the two towns, and proposes that the old line from Sambalpur to Cuttack, which was once surveyed but rejected, should be reconsidered.

UTKALDARPAN,  
Feb. 26th, 1906.

99. Referring to the observation of the London *Times* that the native princes in India have learnt from the tour of the Prince of Wales through India that they will not lose their States so long as they are loyal to the Paramount Power, the *Monarama* [Baripada] of the 5th March points out that the *Times* has overlooked the influence of the Political Agents and Residents, who can easily bring about the ruin of a Native Chief, who happens to be so unfortunate as to incur their displeasure.

MANORAMA,  
Mar. 5th, 1906.

100. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 1st March gives an account of the proceedings of the reception Committee formed at Balasore with the object of settling preliminaries antecedent to the third sitting of the Utkal Union Conference in that town on the 14th of April next and exhorts all classes of Uriyas to contribute their mite towards the success of the undertaking.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
Mar. 1st, 1906.

101. The *Manorama* [Baripada] of the 5th March states that the postal arrangements made in the Dhenkanal State are very unsatisfactory. The existing post-offices, which are only two in number, can hardly cope with the large quantity of work that comes in their way every week. The writer suggests that branch post-offices should be opened at Bhuban, Baulpur, Bangurisingha, Kharagprasad, and other important places in that State, and that the postal authorities should look to the comfort and convenience of the Dhenkanal public.

MANORAMA,  
Mar. 5th, 1906.

102. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 24th February complains that the want of stamps for sale to the public in Bamra is very much felt, and that the Head office, which supplies postal stamps to that State, is not discharging its duties satisfactorily.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
Feb. 24th, 1906.

#### ASSAM PAPERS.

103. The *Paridarsak* [Silchar] of the 7th March after announcing with pleasure that the Murarichand College in Sylhet has been made over to Government goes on to inquire what will be the fate under Government management of the very large number of poor students (many of them of average merit only) who now study in the institution free or on reduced fees. The paper concludes with an appeal to Sir Bamfylde Fuller to take the case of these students into his favourable consideration.

PARIDARSAK,  
Mar. 7th, 1906.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 17th March 1906.







**REPORT (PART II)**  
ON  
**NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL**  
FOR THE  
**Week ending Saturday, 17th March 1906.**

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## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

272. The *Indian Mirror* places among the foremost problems of the day the change which is rapidly coming over the relations between the Occidental and Oriental races.

Asia for the Asiatics.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
18th March 1906.

This change is illustrated by the efforts that are being made by the Asiatic races to rival their Western brethren. China is straining every nerve to attain to Japan's success. About ten thousand students are said to have gone to Japan for education, and a considerable number of Japanese teachers and military instructors are at present employed in training the people of the various provinces of China. An Imperial Commission has at the same time left China for an extended tour in Europe and America with a view to gathering useful information regarding the administrative methods of Western nations. With the birth of this national spirit, an anti-foreign feeling is clearly discernable. China has not only boycotted American goods, but is offering a dogged resistance to foreign trade and enterprise in general. The Chinese Government have further been asked to abolish the extra-territorial rights enjoyed by foreigners at present. In short, the prevailing idea is China for the Chinese. Various causes have been attributed by Western writers to the present unrest in China, but none of these seem exactly to hit the mark. The mere victory of Japan over Russia would not have produced such a racial feeling against Western races generally as prevails at present in China. The correct explanation is to be found in the following words of a progressive Chinese official, addressed to an English gentleman: 'The future contains no Yellow Peril for Europe or America, but it does contain one for Europeans and Americans in Asia unless your nations and people learn to treat Asiatics with more consideration.'

In India, too, the Bengalis have commenced the boycott of British goods and all these developments point to the moral that even a worm will turn when trodden on. The true millennium, however, will come not when the battle flags are unfurled, but when the East and West meet in equal comradeship.

273. The *Indian Mirror* writes that the new national spirit which has been born in China furnishes a most significant lesson.

The awakening of China.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
16th March 1906.

Western oppression and ill-treatment have converted her from an inert into an active nation, but the most disquieting element in the present situation is China's undisguised hatred of the foreigner. This feeling was strikingly displayed not long ago when riots occurred at Shanghai and other places and the extermination of the "foreign devils" was the popular cry. The anti-foreign feeling of the Chinese was demonstrated in a still more striking manner by the boycott of American goods. This sudden awakening following on the triumph of Japan has staggered the Western races, but it is hailed with sincere joy by the Asiatics who, even in their own country, have been placed under crushing disabilities and subjected to systematic persecution by the civilised and Christian West. This harrowing tale of subjection is now at an end. Throughout the East, India not excepted, the watchwords are progress and reform.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

274. The *Bengalee* writes that some public-spirited residents of Kalna proposed to form themselves into a band of workers in the *swadeshi* cause, but before commencing their

*Swadeshi* and the Kalna police.

BENGALUR.  
14th March 1906.

labours they wrote to the Inspector of Police explaining the object of the organisation and soliciting his permission to begin *swadeshi* preachings. The request was summarily rejected, but as no such permission was necessary and as the Inspector had clearly exceeded his authority in refusing to allow *swadeshi* preaching, the people of Kalna would be justified in treating the prohibition with 'supreme contempt.'

275. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that out of the 76 candidates appointed as Sub-Inspectors of Police in the new province, 64 are Muhammadans, and is of opinion that Sir B. Fuller can hardly justify this

Appointments as Sub-Inspectors  
of Police.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
15th March 1906.



partiality by any plea other than that he was not jesting when he said that the Muhammadan was his favourite wife. The journal does not object to Sir B. Fuller's unequal distribution of patronage in this case, as a Sub-Inspector of Police is the 'most unfortunate of men,' but deplores the fact that the Lieutenant-Governor has abused his power.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

BENGALIEE,  
13th March 1906.

276. The *Bengalee* draws attention to a 'strange' case of executive high-handedness. It appears that the Maharaja of Mymensingh filed an ejectment suit against a Muhammadan tenant and after considerable expense eventually obtained a decree. The tenant thereupon submitted a representation to Sir Bampfylde Fuller, with the result that the District Magistrate of Mymensingh, presumably under the Lieutenant-Governor's instructions, wrote to the Maharaja's Manager asking the reason of the petitioner's ejectment. If this report is true, there can be 'no grosser case of official insolence.' What is the value of a decree if the holder has got to explain to the Magistrate his reason for instituting the suit? 'Verily, we have fallen upon evil times, and our only consolation is that the darkest hour of the night precedes the dawn.'

INDIAN EMPIRE,  
13th March 1906.

277. The *Indian Empire* writes that the case of Babu Bepin Behary Das, Head-Master of Edward School, Mymensingh, is a typical instance of the terrorism that has been established in the new province. It appears that in December last, an Inspector of Police called upon the Head-Master to produce the attendance registers of the school. On the latter's refusing to do so without the permission of the proprietor of the school, a prosecution was immediately started, with the result that he was sentenced to five days' imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 50! If respectable persons are to be disgraced in this way for an imaginary or at best a technical offence, the country cannot enjoy a sense of security. Lord Minto should intervene, as His Excellency is ultimately responsible to God and man for the just administration of the country.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
15th March 1906.

278. In an article headed "Criminal Justice in Bengal," the *Indian Mirror* endeavours to enumerate the causes which render the administration of justice so discreditable to the rulers, and to account for the 'colossal ignorance' which is so generally displayed by the Criminal Bench in this country. First and foremost is the pernicious system of recruitment under which young men fresh from school are vested with judicial powers, and exercise them under the supervision of District Magistrates who are themselves very inadequately equipped. It is thus a case of the blind leading the blind. Another serious difficulty arises from the fact that an Indian Magistrate has, in the words of Sir James Stephen, "to perform duties which in England would be performed by police officers or attorneys." It is not surprising, therefore, that he is unequal to the task he is called upon to perform. Moreover, after being appointed as Magistrates, civilians or uncovenanted officers enjoy no facilities for acquiring a tolerable knowledge of law. They are not only burdened with multifarious duties, but in the case of members of the Civil Service promotion is so rapid, higher judicial powers are so readily conferred, and officers are so frequently knocked about from one branch of the service to the other, that they rarely get beyond the embryo stage, and never acquire an intimate acquaintance with law. Serious as these evils are, they pale into insignificance before 'the baneful Government policy which applies an arithmetical standard to the work of the subordinate Magistracy, and which overrides in a most barefaced manner the opinions of the High Court.'

(d)—Education.

BENGALIEE,  
13th March 1906.

279. The *Bengalee* announces that the educational movement, 'based on *swadeshi* lines,' has assumed definite shape with the inauguration of the National Council of Education. Here, says the journal, is another result of the partition. A moral revolution of stupendous magnitude has been achieved, and the prevailing idea among the people is to be independent and self-reliant. The *Bengalee* appeals to its monied countrymen to come forward with their contributions in aid of a movement with which national progress is intimately bound up.



280. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Education has formulated a scheme of education on national lines, the importance of which cannot be over-estimated for a variety of reasons. In the first place, students are being made to over-study, with the result that they are eventually rendered useless physically and mentally. This is a system that stands condemned on actual results. Then, again, higher education is gradually being made impossible owing to the lower examinations being made more difficult. In the Entrance Examination, for instance, the percentage of failures is 80 or 90; in the F. A. and B. A. about 50, and in the M. A. considerably more. These failures mean nothing more or less than that the country is annually being stocked with half-educated men who will either be useless or dangerous members of society. To avert such a calamity the proposed National College is a 'crying necessity,' and it will, in addition, keep high education from the extinction with which it is threatened under the new Act. It should also be remembered that, in view of the 'cowardly crusade' that has been started against schoolboys, it is imperatively necessary to found a college over which the Government has no control whatsoever. The *Patrika* considers that if the scheme that has been formulated is faithfully carried out, it will remove all the defects of the present system.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
13th March 1906.

281. The *Bengalee* regards the new educational scheme promulgated by the National Council of Education as part and parcel of the *swadeshi* movement and also as a 'constructive effort' which will have far-reaching consequences. In the first place, it will exercise an indirect influence upon the Calcutta University, and secondly, it will restrain men like Sir B. Fuller 'in their eccentric and high-handed conduct towards the student community.' There has for some time been a craving for national education on national lines, but the recent persecution of schoolboys is directly responsible for the realisation of the popular desire. Reactionary and high-handed rulers have their destined share in hastening the ends of progress, and in truth they build better than they know. Now that the foundations of a National University have been laid, 'broad and deep,' the *Bengalee* earnestly appeals to its countrymen to make the greatest possible sacrifices and help the new movement on in every conceivable way open to them.

BENGALUR,  
14th March 1906.

282. The *Bengalee* considers that the determination of Government to appoint a civilian to the post of Director of Public Instruction despite the protests of the Indian Educational Service and the public Press is 'extremely suspicious.' Can it be that Government has in contemplation certain changes of a retrograde character, the carrying out of which it dare not entrust to any but a member of the Civil Service? 'Such an assumption would be perfectly consistent with the present educational policy of Government.'

BENGALUR,  
15th March 1906.

283. Referring to the 'extraordinary' circular which has just been issued by the Director of Public Instruction, Eastern Bengal and Assam, in connection with scholarship-holders prosecuting their studies in the Bonaripara School, the *Bengalee* observes that Sir B. Fuller's wrath seems to be concentrated upon the 'doomed' people of this village. The people have been harassed by the punitive police; the assessments fixed for maintaining this force are such that the people of Bonaripara are quite unable to meet them, and now a heavy blow has been aimed at the local school by means of a circular which may compel the best students to leave the school. 'The petty vindictiveness which runs through these proceedings is so un-English that we are surprised that His Excellency the Viceroy does not at once interpose and stop these eccentricities which are calculated to deprive the Government of the new Province of public respect and confidence. We hope none of the scholars will leave the school. We hope they will show that they have a greater love for their *alma mater* than for the scholarships which an unsympathetic Government may dole out to them.'

BENGALUR,  
15th March 1906.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

284. The *Bengalee* writes that at the last meeting of the Legislative Council, the member for the Dacca Division drew attention to the filling up of the land spans in the  
Railways and insanitation.

BENGALUR,  
13th March 1906.



approach viaduct to the Gorai Bridge and enquired whether it would not affect the capacity of the bridge to pass the flood discharge of the river and with it the water-supply and the sanitation of the vast tract of country watered by the Gorai. The Hon'ble Mr. Inglis replied in the negative. The journal regards the reply given as most unsatisfactory, especially as the matter was one of importance to the people who, rightly or wrongly, attribute the prevalence of malaria in certain parts of Bengal to the obliteration of water channels due to the construction of railway embankments. The journal regrets that the Government have done nothing to test the accuracy of this theory.

## (h)—General.

BENGALER,  
10th March 1906.

285. The *Bengalee* appeals to Lord Minto to put an end to the foolish situation created by the boycott of the *Weekly Chronicle*, as it cannot be expected that Sir B. Fuller will cancel his own order, however arbitrary or unjust. The journal agrees with the *Statesman* that if the boycott is continued, it will do more harm to the Government of the new province than might be done by many "intrinsically more serious blunders." If the Viceroy is not to interfere in a matter like this, he may as well abdicate.

INDIAN EMPIRE,  
15th March 1906.

286. The *Indian Empire* asks who will suffer most by the withdrawal of Government support from the *Weekly Chronicle*, the Government itself or the latter? Does the

*Ibid.* Assam Government really believe that it had been advertising in the *Chronicle* with the philanthropic object of supporting that paper? 'If so, it has been cultivating philanthropy at the expense of the tax-payer, and committing a most flagrant jobbery.' The journal, however, does not take the Assam Government seriously, for it is really the party that has benefited by publishing its advertisements, etc., in the only public print in Assam. Apart from these considerations, the boycott of this journal is a matter that concerns the honour of the Press at large. Are papers that publish official advertisements to regulate their policy according to the sovereign pleasure of officialdom, and let officialdom decide for them what news they are to publish and what they are not to publish? That would be permitting a most unwarrantable infringement on the liberty of the Press and a most undue interference with the discretion of Editors. Because Mr. Risley tried this game on the *Statesman*, he has, we are told, been severely rated by the Viceroy and made to eat humble pie. The *Chronicle* may be a less powerful paper than the *Statesman* "but in the republic of letters we allow no such invidious inequalities or distinctions. One newspaper is as good to us as another, and what hurts one of us hurts all of us. It is, therefore, our duty to rally round the *Chronicle* in a body, and strain every nerve to undo the wrong that has been done that paper, and, through that paper, to the entire Press of India."

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
15th March 1906.

287. The fact that the boycott of the *Weekly Chronicle* has not been withdrawn, leads the *Hindoo Patriot* to say that a very ill-conceived policy has been adopted with regard to the Press. The Press is the only institution which places the Government in touch with the masses, so that the boycotting of newspapers, as a matter of fashion, on slender and negligible grounds, is neither wise nor prudent. Moreover, boycotting will not minimise misrepresentations, but, on the contrary, court inaccuracies, since authoritative information is withheld. But what was the fault committed by the *Weekly Chronicle*—merely that it published in December last, a few lines to the effect that a Gurkha had attempted to outrage a mehter woman at Barisal? The Editor was satisfied that this was not a "gross misstatement" and accordingly declined to retract what he had written, the result being that his journal has been boycotted officially. This is not wise or prudent statesmanship, and the *Patriot* hopes that the impropriety of the action taken will strike the Government concerned without delay.

BENGALER,  
15th March 1906.

288. In a criticism on Sir B. Fuller's administration, the *Bengalee* says it would be difficult to think of a more tactless and unsympathetic ruler. Schoolboys and teachers are being persecuted with vengeance and are not unfrequently sent to jail, a newspaper is being boycotted for refusing to

Sir Bampfylde Fuller's administration.



sacrifice its honour and self-respect, illegal circulars have been issued restraining the liberty of the people, and the entire Hindu community is being oppressed. The alienation between the people and the Government is thus complete, and the former have been quite disillusioned as regards British rule representing a reign of law and order. What an example has thus been given to the millions of India! 'Sir B. Fuller has done a great disservice to the Government he serves. The results of injustice or of administrative eccentricities do not declare themselves in a day, but they sink deep in the national mind and destroy the sources of that public confidence which, more than armies or navies, contributes to the stability of thrones and states.'

289. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* again asks what blessings Sir A. Fraser has conferred on the people, now that he has been relieved of half his work? Are the Bengalis in

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
14th March 1906.

The partition. any way better off than they were three years ago? Are they more prosperous and are the officials more sympathetic? It is Sir A. Fraser that the Bengalis have to thank for the partition measure, and although he will leave the province in two years more, his administration will remind them that they were a strong, compact, and united nation, but were ruthlessly divided and emasculated because the administration of their province proved too heavy for Sir A. Fraser!

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

290. Referring to the statement of the London correspondent of the *Times of India* that Lord Minto has sent a lengthy despatch to the India Office regarding the introduc-

INDIAN EMPIRE,  
18th March 1906.

tion of a number of administrative reforms, the *Indian Empire* warns His Excellency that it was on the rock of reform that Lord Curzon wrecked his administration. The journal states that some of the proposals contained in the above despatch relate to the Feudatory States 'whose help and counsel, it is urged, should be increasingly sought by the Government for the encouragement of educational movements among the Indian people and the improvement of sanitation.' Presumably 'help' here means pecuniary help. If this is so, Indian Princes will be required to use the resources which should be utilised for the good of their own subjects to promote 'all sorts of educational and sanitary fads that happen to be under consideration in British India.' The Indian Princes have been sufficiently harmed. Lord Dufferin saddled them with the cost of maintaining Imperial Service Troops and Lord Curzon reduced them from the position of allies to that of vassals and still further degraded them at the Delhi Durbar. It is hoped, therefore, that Lord Minto will not signalise his advent to India by forging new fetters for them and saddling them with fresh responsibilities.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

291. In a lengthy article on this subject the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that various notions for the prevention of famine seize the official mind from time to time and are

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14th March 1906.

carried out at an enormous cost to the Indian tax-payer, but are eventually abandoned as ill-conceived and disastrous, or continued as a necessary evil. A favoured theory was that railways would drive famines from the country, but results showed that although the country had been covered with a network of railways, famines were more frequent, extensive, and intense than they were before the construction of railways. The latter, no doubt, facilitate the transport of food-grain from one part of the country to another and thereby mitigate the horrors of famine, but railways can neither create crops nor give the required rain nor replenish the pockets of the poverty-stricken millions. The same remarks apply to irrigation schemes which the people were made to believe would give them bumper harvests. The delusive character of these projects has now been officially admitted, and the Secretary of State has now raised the question "whether it is not wiser to meet the distress as it arises by granting funds for famine works and charitable relief than to embark on costly schemes of prevention which are liable to fail when most needed." Then, again, the construction of railways and canals is invariably followed by the prevalence of malaria fever. Arrah, for instance, was one of the most healthy districts in India before the introduction of the canal system, but now its inhabitants are malaria-stricken.



Similarly, the partition of Bengal owes its origin to the 'official notion' that the measure would increase the wealth of the country. 'The idea apparently is that, as soon as an Englishman is elevated to the position of the ruler of a Province, he will be furnished with a magician's wand, and as soon as he waves it, Providence will shower plenty and prosperity upon the people entrusted to his care. Instead of being blessed, the new Province has, however, been cursed in every way. Instead of the blessed wand, Sir B. Fuller holds the Gurkha *lathi* in his hands. Instead of developing trade and industry, the new ruler has adopted the "hammering" policy, to quote the *Daily News* correspondent, to increase the sale of Manchester cloths and Liverpool salt; and in the place of plenty and prosperity the people of the eastern districts, the granaries of the whole world, see the spectre of a famine at their doors.'

Returning to the subject of irrigation, the journal agrees that it is necessary to have both protective and productive irrigation in many tracts, but considers that it would be a violation of a distinct pledge to utilise the resources of the Famine Insurance Fund for the construction of protective irrigation. When starting this fund the founders gave a solemn undertaking that it would be devoted to certain specific objects, one of which was to construct light railways or irrigation works of a "reproductive" character. How, in spite of this, do the Government propose to devote a portion of this fund to "protective works" which may or may not prove successful, and which, if unsuccessful, would mean the depletion of a 'sacred' fund?

The journal goes on to say that the Secretary of State declares that "it is obvious that famine will often occur in certain districts." What a 'terrible' confession to make after 150 years of British rule! In *pre-British* days famines were unknown. Famine no longer visits England or Ireland, and there is not a single other country in the British Empire where it is a constant menace. Why should India be an exception? 'The fact is, England itself will be a home of chronic famine if it is reduced to the condition of India. Let England send out 30 crores of rupees annually to America or Germany without receiving any return for the same; let its public services be occupied by foreigners; let it be converted into a purely agricultural country and let all its industries be killed; let foreign merchants exploit its rich coal, iron, and tin mines, and drain its wealth through one thousand channels; let this state of things continue for only three decades, and see whether or not a five-year or a three-year famine overtakes the richest country in Europe and whitens its soil with the bones of millions of its people.'

India is now living on half or quarter rations and she is fast drifting to the last stage of hunger. There is yet time, however, to save her, and it can only be done, as the King-Emperor pointed out, by the grant of free institutions.

#### VI. — MISCELLANEOUS.

292. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* dwells upon the seriousness of the situation created by the rapid disappearance of the better classes, and urges the rulers to do all in their

power to preserve the Indian nation who are fast deteriorating. In order to place the Indians on a better footing, the journal insists that they should be treated as British subjects and given a very much larger share in the Government. For instance, '(a) every ordinary department' should be controlled by a native of the soil and the supreme control of the more important ones should remain in the hands of Englishmen; (b) with the exception of the highest posts, all others should be competed for in England and in India; and (c) natives of India should receive lessons in the art of modern warfare, be freely admitted to the Army and Navy, and, lastly, the Arms Act should be abolished and English no longer be the Court language. In short, Home Rule on Irish lines should be granted to India. If India is governed on these principles, England will no doubt be the loser in certain respects, but she will benefit in the long run. In the first place, she will not have to maintain a large standing army in India, as the people will defend their own country and also fight for the mother-country when occasion arises. Relieved of the task of maintaining India 'by force,' the British will find themselves free to cope with their rivals who are hemming them in all sides. The Bengali nation is fast dying out, and if something is not done to preserve it, it will disappear in the course of the next half century.



293. The *Bengalee* writes that a 'bitter' distaste for the service of

The spell of Government service broken at last.

Government prevails owing to the repressive policy inaugurated by Lord Curzon and extended by some of his over-zealous lieutenants. This feeling is getting more deep-rooted daily, and if the present policy is allowed to continue, no Hindu will accept service under a Government that has so disregarded the feelings and wishes of his countrymen. Thus Sir B. Fuller's threat relating to the ostracism of Hindus from Government service is a vain one, and his treatment of them is only giving them a greater degree of independence and self-reliance.

BENGALUR,  
10th March 1906.

294. The *Indian Nation* is of opinion that the Indians cannot be regarded

'Our nationality.'

as a nation for the reason that they have not a common descent, language or religion. In its more restricted sense the word nation implies the union of the rulers and the ruled, which in India is out of the question. Thus the Indians have no claims to being considered a nation. In its wider sense the word may be held to be several peoples united under one Government and this is the ideal the educated classes in India are striving to realise, their objective being to obtain a share in the government of their country, to have their rights recognised, and their voice respected. This interpretation of nationality is purely a British idea and the question arises whether this ideal has been even partly realised, and if it is capable of full realisation. The journal holds that, notwithstanding religious differences, the unification of the Indian people is not altogether impossible in view of the spread of English education, the growth of newspapers, easy means of communication, and the extension of trade and commerce. The living force of unification, however, lies in English education. It is English education that has brought it into being and is nourishing it, and English education alone will complete its development, for wherever English education has spread, the necessity of national union has been more or less felt. Recent events serve to illustrate this, and a keen observer cannot have failed to notice that the *swadeshi* movement has been strongest where there is a high school. This union which is noticeable in the educated classes is not met with in the masses, who are still swayed by religious differences which English education alone can uproot. Thus the only hope lies in the diffusion of knowledge throughout India, and Indian nationality, which is at present a pleasant dream, will be realised after years of patient toil.

INDIAN NATION,  
12th March 1906.

295. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that in former days Englishmen

Interest and duty.

as a rule preferred duty to interest, but to-day the order of things is reversed in India, and officials have ceased to have those fine scruples. Their reputations are not of much consequence to them, and this callousness is due to the fact that the exigencies of the Empire require them to deal with Indians in a manner that is probably opposed to their own feelings as Englishmen. 'Yet,' says the journal, 'there is a way to govern Empires whereby the highest qualities of Englishmen can be retained intact. The way is to grant the colonial system of government to all countries dependent upon England. If the same sort of rule was given to India as has been granted to Canada, Englishmen could have benefited themselves in every way, and also benefited the Indians, who not only surrendered their independence to a foreign race, believing that they would keep their words, but helped them in establishing and extending their Empire in this country. Is there any doubt that their present system of Indian rule is not based upon eternal moralities of justice and righteousness which should guide an enlightened nation?'

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
14th March 1906.

296. The *Bengalee* hopes that now that the local authorities fully know

The Deoghur bazar affair.

the grievances of the Deoghur shopkeepers who are compelled, during *mélas*, to remove their shops temporarily to another locality, they will show their tact and efficiency by so arranging matters as not to give anyone cause for serious complaint. This bazar affair has assumed more than local importance, since the convenience and safety of pilgrims from all parts of India are involved. The arrangements should therefore be supervised by the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, and not left to local officials, who are perhaps precluded from acting freely in the matter for fear of offending their official superiors.

BENGALUR,  
15th March 1906.



BENGAL, 15th March 1906.

297. The *Bengalee* writes that a valuable addition has been made to the literature on the partition of Bengal by the publication, in pamphlet form, of a series of articles that appeared in the *Bangabasi* refuting each argument advanced by Lord Curzon to justify the creation of a new province. Speaking of the Dacca College, for example, His Lordship said that it was being "starved." There were no play-grounds, the professors were few and under-paid and, above all, more than half the students lived in wretched boarding-houses in the town, many of the latter being of doubtful repute and situated amid insanitary and undesirable surroundings. Lord Curzon was confident that the creation of a new province would tend to mitigate these evils. In dealing with this question the writer points out that the state of the Presidency College, situated as it is in the metropolis, is not much better, and argues that if a great college in Calcutta, under the very eyes of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, leaves much room for improvement, what guarantee is there that the constitution of a new province, with Dacca as its capital, would stimulate the educational activities of the authorities and lead to improvements in the Dacca College. In another place Lord Curzon says that the secret of all good administration is contact between the governors and the governed, and declares that the creation of a new province would secure such contact. The writer points out that the areas within the jurisdiction of District Magistrates and Subdivisional Officers are not in many cases very large and permit close contact between the rulers and the ruled. The real fact is that officials maintain a studied aloofness, and it is a change in the official temper and not territorial redistribution that is required. Sir B. Fuller, says the journal, has recently been touring, and everywhere his appearance has been the signal for respectable people to keep away after the Barisal affair. Thus the object of partition has been defeated, for the measure has alienated the people from the Government. The *Bengalee* thinks that the pamphlet should be translated into English and sent to both Houses of Parliament.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 15th March 1906.

298. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that information received by the last mail confirms the view that Mr. Robert's amendment was merely a 'feeler.' It has yet to be ascertained whether the Secretary of State gave a sympathetic reply. Judging from the brief summary of the debate wired to this country it is clear, says the journal, that the Secretary of State will not accept any scheme involving the separation of Bihar from Bengal. It would, therefore, be unwise for the people of Bengal, in their final memorial, to make any such suggestion. They should take their stand on the unassailable ground of law, and if then the 'Liberal of Liberals' rejects their case, he will present to the world an object-lesson of which every Liberal will be ashamed. The people should further pray that Mr. Brodrick's scheme for placing Assam, like Sind, under a Commissioner-Governor may be adopted, if it be urged that one ruler is not competent to carry on the administration of United Bengal.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 15th March 1906.

299. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that English statesmen have in a manner devoted their attention to all Indian questions except the most crucial one, namely, the food problem or the problem of the unemployed. The British Parliament is striving to provide for 20,000 unemployed in England, but has ever a thought been spent on what proportion of the three hundred millions in India are without employment and hankering after food? The Government is anxious to bring about the suppression of sedition and the spread of loyalty, but is it possible to accomplish this task among a people who are without food and without employment? Almost the entire middle classes who were once so flourishing are to-day without employment and without the chances of earning an independent living, since the trades and industries have all perished and the capital of the country disappeared in consequence. The public service is their only hope; but Government cannot provide for all and, what is more, State patronage is being gradually withdrawn. Coming to the lower classes, the case is still worse. In former times every man of them had an independent calling and a home, but what employment is available for them now? He must either be a cultivator or a vagabond



cooly, which is practically slavery. Owing to famine and other serious drawbacks, the employment of the cultivator is worse than no employment at all, and this is the miserable condition to which the masses have been reduced. The question, however, continues to be of minor importance to the Government, but if the Government would only make assiduous inquiries they would be in a position to realise the proportion of the masses without employment.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENL.  
OF POLICE, L. P.  
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,  
*The 17th March 1906.*

K. B. THOMAS,  
*Perst. Asst. to the Insp.-Genl. of Police, L. P.*



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